

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 2. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution
4 data, together with attribute data including the price of the
5 distribution data, to a storage region provided in each user
6 side;

7 partial data reproduction release means which, when the
8 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed
9 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the
10 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders
11 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible
12 from the time of the decision at the earliest; and

13 remaining distribution data distribution means which,
14 upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the
15 distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data
16 corresponding to the partial data, distributes the remaining
17 distribution data to the user who has requested the
18 distribution of the remaining data.

1 2. A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for
3 distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution
4 data, together with attribute data including the price of the
5 distribution data, to a storage region provided in each user
6 side;

7 partial data reproduction release means which, when the

user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible from the time of the decision at the earliest;

payment ability judgment means which, upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, judges whether or not the user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means which, when the judgment by the result of the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data to the corresponding user side;

accounting means which, when the distribution of the requested data by the requested data distribution means to the user side has been confirmed, performs accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means which renders the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

3. A data distribution system comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution

data for which the time of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including the time of start of use and/or the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of the time of start of use, to a storage region provided in each user side;

partial data reproduction release means which, when the user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible from the fixed time of the start of use at the earliest; and

remaining distribution data distribution means which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, distributes the remaining distribution data to the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

4. A data distribution system comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution data for which the time of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including the time of start of use and/or the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of time of the start of use, to a storage region

9 provided in each user side;

10 partial data reproduction release means which, when the
11 user side has decided to purchase the partial data distributed
12 by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the
13 remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders
14 the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible
15 from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

16 payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed
17 time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request from
18 the user side for the distribution of a part or the whole of
19 the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to
20 the partial data, judges whether or not the user, who has
21 requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the
22 undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay
23 the equivalent to the distribution data;

24 requested data distribution means which, when the
25 judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user
26 can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data to the
27 corresponding user side;

28 accounting means which, when the distribution of the
29 requested data to the user side by the requested data
30 distribution means has been confirmed, performs accounting of
31 the distribution data for the user; and

32 requested data reproduction release means which renders
33 the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by
34 the requested data distribution means upon the completion of
35 the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

1 5. The data distribution system according to any one of
2 claims 1 to 4, wherein the remaining distribution data is
3 divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises
4 distribution interval regulation means that regulates the
5 interval of the distribution of the remaining distribution data
6 for each divided unit to the user according to the progress of
7 the reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 6. The data distribution system according to any one of
2 claims 1 to 4, wherein the distribution data are distributed
3 through a radio network.

1 7. The data distribution system according to claim 2 or 4,
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during
3 sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the
4 payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
5 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales
6 processing is under execution, and subtracts the amount of
7 money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a new
8 balance value.

1 8. The data distribution system according to claim 7,
2 which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at
3 the time of the completion of accounting, that, when accounting
4 has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the sales
5 code to establish the balance.

1 9. The data distribution system according to claim 7,

2 wherein the period of validity is provided in the sales code
3 and which further comprises means, for establishing the balance
4 at the time of no charging, that, when the period of validity
5 has expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by
6 subtracting the equivalent value from the balance, to the
7 original value based on recognition that the payment
8 corresponding to the issued sales code has not been made.

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